

**Dorchester United Church
SUNDAY, August 6, 2023**

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we worship and live on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral), and Wedat peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

PRELUDE (Time to quietly prepare our hearts for worship)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: My soul cries out

ALL: For evil to cease and for good to conquer.

One: My soul cries out

ALL: For peace and justice.

One: We are called to be the church,

ALL: Not to bring burnt offerings

but to sacrifice ourselves

in defense of the vulnerable:

the widows, the orphans,

the poor and the sick,

the least, the lost, and the lonely.

One: We gather to sing out in celebration,

to remember God is with us,

and that His love endures forever.

***HYMN: "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" V.U. #472**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you...

And also with you.

***CREED** (Together recite our Creed)

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious God, you have called us to be your own. We long to respond to your call: openly, fully, lovingly; yet we confess the heart that is too hardened to repent, the righteousness that knows no fault, the callousness that has ceased to care, the blindness that can see nothing but its own will. Hear our deepest desires and yearnings, we pray, and through the power of your love, heal us and forgive us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Micah 2:1-13, John 15:1-8

MESSAGE: "Under the Gardener's Care" -

sermon by Rev. Jim Poelman read by
Len Van Harten

***HYMN: "For the Healing of the Nations" V.U. #678**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of life, we give you thanks for this day, for this community of faith, and for pouring out your grace upon us. Bless us and keep us all.

God of grace, we pray for Your church. May it truly be your light to those who walk in darkness. May those who serve the church in its many and varied ministries, truly serve your Kingdom.

God without beginning or end, we pray for the leaders of the nations. May they govern with wisdom and compassion. May they seek peace and justice so all may dwell free of war and injustice.

All-knowing God, we pray for the wisdom to be faithful guardians of your creation. May we be open to ways to protect the air, soil and water. May we seek ways to reorder our lives to preserve and nurture all life on this planet.

Compassionate God, we pray for those who lack food, medical care and other necessities of life. May you brood over them as a hen broods over her chicks. Deliver them from their time of want so they may see a new tomorrow where there is abundance for all.

Merciful God, we pray for those who mourn a loss in their lives, especially we think of the friends and family of _____

Healing God, we pray for those who are ill or dying, those who are awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment, especially their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

May you heal them in mind, body and circumstance so they may feel your presence and know your love in their lives.

As we pray, so may we do, and in all that we do grant us the grace, the strength and the wisdom to seek your will, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO INVEST IN GOD'S MISSION:

Gracious God, you created a richly abundant world, with plenty for all. We offer our gifts not only in gratitude, but also in the hope of bringing about a fair and just distribution of your blessings.

Our tithes and offerings will now be accepted, via CanadaHelps and Canada Post, PAR, the offering plate or the mailslot.

***OFFERTORY HYMN: "We Praise You, O God" vs 1 V.U. #218**

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, you yield abundant fruit for all to share. As we present our gifts, fill us also with your passion to mend what is broken, to include those excluded so all may flourish and dwell with you in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Blessed are we,
**because we are able to gather to worship God,
and listen for the word God speaks to us today.**
Blessed are we,
because we know we sin and fall short of the glory of God.
Blessed are we,
because we know our need for God in our lives.
We leave this time of worship knowing we are blessed,
Blessed by God, who created us for blessing.

***HYMN: "Take My Life and Let It Be" V.U. #506**

POSTLUDE: (Time for reflection)